HOBART HISTORY NEWS

No. 62, May 1994 *706 E. 4th St., (P.O. Box 24,) Hobart, Indiana*

Green Thumb Sale
May 14 and 21

Spring brings the robins; crocuses, daffodils, tulips and other spring flowers; rainy days, and our annual Green Thumb Sale. This year's dates are May 14 and 21. Please pot up your extra indoor and outdoor plants and bring them to us on either Saturday morning. While you're at the Museum, choose some new plants for your own garden.

Century of Progress is Summer Exhibit Theme

So many people enjoyed our Chicago world's fairs exhibit last summer that we are repeating the theme this summer (June through August) for the 1933-34 Century of Progress exhibition. If you have memorabilia from this fair and are willing to loan them for the exhibit, please call us (942-0970) or bring your treasures to the Museum any Saturday from now through June.

Society Honored for Community Service

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce awarded its 1993 Community Service Award to the Hobart Historical Society. The award, presented annually, recognizes an organization for the performance of outstanding work in the interest of the community, civic activities which do the greatest good for the largest number of people, and exemplary service and leadership. The Society was nominated for its establishment of the Hobart Historical Museum and its preservation of Hobart's history, records and genealogies. Elin Christianson, president, accepted the award at the Chamber's annual dinner in January. The award plaque is now on display at the Museum. We are very proud to have been recognized for our work.

Textile Project Underway

We are very fortunate to have Myrna Newgent, an expert in antique textiles, volunteer to sort, identify, clean and properly store the clothing and other textiles in the Society's collection. This will help us get this part of the collection in order and properly displayed or stored. Mrs. Newgent has attracted financial contributions to help with the purchase of preservation materials, as well. We can also use donations of old, cotton sheets, cotton bias or twill tape, and cotton gloves. If you have any of these items, please bring them to the Museum. This project has been on our wish list for some time and we're very grateful to have Mrs. Newgent's interest and expertise.

Class of 1954 Plans Reunion

The Hobart High School Class of 1954 is planning a reunion the weekend of August 13-14. More information is available from Mrs. James (Sharon) Johnston, 600 W. 10th Street, Hobart, IN 46342. The

Class of 1954 (continued)
Reunion Committee is also looking for the following classmates: Warren Conover, Kenneth Cook, Martha Culbertson, James Dant, Roland Eyears, John Granger, Ed Hagerty, Joanna Hineline, Patsy Hoddy, Louisa Jacobsen, Frank Kaplon, Kathleen Kralik, Arlene McIntyre, Glen Marvel, Evelyn Miller, John Munyan, Wanda Owenby, James Skomac, Phyllis Tarkelly, and Hazel Trusky.

Wanted: 1986 Hobart High School Yearbook for the Museum Collection

Changes

The old saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same doesn't always hold true. That certainly is the case in Hobart these days. For our out of town readers, here are some real changes. Mundell and Foreman Schools will close at the end of this school year and will be demolished shortly afterward. They will be replaced by a new elementary school, now under construction at Sapper's curve on 10th Street, just west of Foreman school. The new school is to be named the Joan Martin School, in honor of the late Joan Martin, a popular elementary school teacher in Hobart.

Foreman School, erected in 1945, was named for William "Uncle Billy" Foreman, Hobart school custodian from 1906 to 1939, beloved by many generations of Hobart students. Mundell School, which opened in January 1931, was built on land formerly owned by the pioneer Hobart family of that name. Joseph M. Mundell was president of the school board when Mundell School was built. Both Foreman and Mundell were added to and remodelled over the years but were showing their age, a factor that counted in the present school board's decision to construct a new facility to replace them.

The Hobart you know and love is now "Old Hobart." In March, after a long and bitter battle, the Indiana Supreme Court validated Hobart's annexation of 9.5 square miles of Ross Township, including 4,000 residents and the Southlake Mall. The newest part of Hobart extends from 61st Avenue on the north to 93rd Avenue on the south and from Mississippi Street on the west to Indiana 51 on the east. The City of Hobart began services in this area in January and will continue to expand, eventually adding a police and fire station in the new area. Folks are now referring to Old Hobart and New Hobart as convenient references.

Other changes include Hobart's purchase of the NIPSCO offices at Second and Main. The sewer department has already moved there and the police department is planning its move to the new location.

Inventory of Lake County Historic Sites and Structures

In June, a team of architectural historians from the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana will begin a comprehensive survey of historic buildings and sites in Lake county. Hobart will be included, of course, and the Hobart Historical Society has been actively working to obtain this project.

The inventory is a Federal program, administered by the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana conducts the survey in conjunction with the DHPA. Since 1975, more than 40 of Indiana's 92 counties have been surveyed. Because of its size, the Lake County inventory is expected to take two years. The results will be published in a report which will be available to the public. The report is expected to go on sale in 1996.

1944 in Review

January. Byron Mellon was renamed to the school board. Other members were Jack Ledyard and Herbert Carlson. The park board lighted Lake George in the city beach area for the convenience of skaters. Jean Call was married to Corporal Herbert Fasel with Irene Call and Leonard Fasel as attendants.

1944 in Review (Continued)

February. Hobart went over the quota in the War Bond Drive, selling $233,100 worth of bonds. Margaret Scharbach's engagement to Charles Beckner was announced. Kroger's advertised lettuce at 5 cents a head, navel oranges at 39 cents for 5 pounds, broccoli at 25 cents for 2 pounds, coffee at 51 cents for 2 pounds, bacon at 25 cents a pound, and pork loin roast at 25 cents a pound. John Hooseline died.

War news filled many columns. It was noted that new red and blue ration tokens were to be issued. Late in the year a honor roll of men from Hobart killed while serving their country listed Sgt. Knute Wilmoth, Sgt. Lawrence Badkey, Corporal Robert Bowman, Captain Edward Fowble, Corporal Elmer Ballantyne, Lt. William Sablotony, Pfc. Miles Stanley, Tech. Sgt. Raymond Small, Lt. Emil Sieweer, Jr., Lt. Roper Peddicord, Sgt. Robert Ahlgrim, Corporal Wilfred Lewis, Corporal Robert Cherock, Corporal Floyd Faulkner, Pfc. Joseph Harney, Sgt. Ivor Powell, Tech. Sgt. Louis Lindsey, Lt. Leonard Hellstrom, Private Steve Szostek, Lt. William Shyrock, Private Wayne Kaska, and Captain Max Hindman.

March. Heavy rains caused flooded conditions and threatened the dam. Farmers were two weeks behind in planting in May due to the heavy spring rains. Faith Grabill, accompanied by her sister, Naomi, was featured on the Woman's Club program, singing "Pale Hands" and "Say a Prayer for the Boys Over There". The congregation of the Methodist Church burned their mortgage. The Past Matrons' Club of Hobart Eastern Star was entertained by Mrs. Sanford Werstler with Mrs. Emma Tabbert and Mrs. C. Ayrea as guests. After 27 years of operation, the Roper Brothers Garage at Third and East Streets was sold to Paul Heuring of Chicago.

Postage was to be raised to 3 cents on letters and 8 cents on airmail letters.

Shirley Roper and Lt. Robert Gradle exchanged wedding vows at ceremonies held in her home and left for Fort Benning, Georgia, where Lt. Gradle was stationed.

April. Two hundred fifty linemen and electricians of NIPSCO went on strike. The state announced plans to reroute state road 51 over Wisconsin Street instead of through the business section of Hobart.

May. The Ho Hi Life took second place in National Field Day and Jay Scriba, Claude Choate and Lowell Enslen, sports writers, placed third. Hobart High School was to graduate 95 seniors May 25, and Cal Green, serving in the armed forces, was expected to be on leave to attend the ceremonies. Mrs. and Mrs. William Messick celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary with 40 friends and relatives at the Odd Fellows Hall on May 20.

Fred Rose, Jr., was mayor and Laura Bracken, clerk. Hobart Township's 1944 tax valuation was set at $1,470,317. This included Hobart, East Gary, New Chicago and rural areas. The Hobart city budget called for a tax rate of 1.17 to raise $62,083.35 on a valuation of $5,306.270.

July. Ada Marie Easton of Des Moines, Iowa, entertained a number of friends at the home of her mother. Present were Mrs. Jeanette Cavender Pferfick, Mrs. Sis Easton, Mrs. Blanche Bradley Benz, Mrs. Marjorie Lutz Keene, Miss Eunice Werner, Mrs. Ione McComus, Mrs. Flora Iddings, Miss Dorothy Travers, Mrs. Isabel Brooks, Mrs. Frances Hunsicker, Mrs. June Brown, Mrs. Evelyn Reinert,h Mrs. Dorothy Ballantyne, Mrs. Truth Quinlan, Mrs. Lucy Halsted, Mrs. Virginia Traeger, Mrs. Helen Hawke, Mrs. Isabel Hawke, Mrs. Almira Spreer, Mrs. Madeline Reed, Mrs. Norma Shannon and Mrs. Vera Foster.

August. Homer Beach and Elmer Hamann bought the bowling alley from Dewey Gradle.

September. School enrollment showed 1652 students in all grades with 58 teachers on the staff. Irene ~~Call~~ was married to Francis Ellman September 3.

Land on Tenth Street was purchased as a site for a new elementary school. Dairies asked for a boost in milk prices from 15.5 to 16.5 cents per quart.

December. Charles Ward was installed as master of M.L. McClelland Lodge, F&AM. Other officers were William Messick, George Tarrant, William Baker, Ted Taylor, Evert Anderson, John McGrath, Ralph Hawke, Harold Baty, and E.K. Anders. The engagement of Jane Ferguson to S 1/c Allen Todd was announced.

Hobart Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Hobart, IN 46342-0024

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Green Thumb Sale: Saturdays May 14 and 21

Bring and Buy !

Hobart Historical Society Museum
706 East Fourth Street, Hobart
Open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(219) 942-0970

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TO: Mrs. Walter Isakson, Treasurer
Hobart Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Hobart, IN 46342-0024

Here is my annual contribution of $_____ to help preserve the past, present and future of Hobart History. (Contributions are tax-deductible.)

Senior Citizen Member. .	$ l.00	Sustaining Member* . . .	$ 25.00
Youth Member	2.00	Supporting Member*	50.00
Personal Member	5.00	Century Club Member* . . .	l00.00

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*Please give name in the way it should appear in the annual list of donors. Thank you.

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